PCT/EP00/04231

PATENT COOPERATION TREA Y

9/980376

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU PCT To: **NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING** STYLE, Kelda, Camilla, Karen OF A CHANGE Page White & Farrer 54 Doughty Street (PCT Rule 92bis.1 and London WC1N 2LS Administrative Instructions, Section 422) **ROYAUME-UNI** Date of mailing (day/month/year) 24 January 2002 (24.01.02) Applicant's or agent's file reference IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION 101636/KS/JJ International application No. International filing date (day/month/year) PCT/EP00/04231 09 May 2000 (09.05.00) 1. The following indications appeared on record concerning: the applicant the common representative the inventor the agent State of Nationality State of Residence Name and Address FI FI NOKIA NETWORKS OY Keilalahdentie 4 Telephone No. FIN-02150 Espoo Finland Facsimile No. Teleprinter No. 2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning: the person the name the address the nationality the residence State of Residence State of Nationality Name and Address FΙ **NOKIA CORPORATION** Keilalahdentie 4 Telephone No. FIN-02150 Espoo Finland Facsimile No. Teleprinter No.

Change in the applicant's name due to a merger has been recorded.

4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:

X the receiving Office

3. Further observations, if necessary:

the International Searching Authority

the International Preliminary Examining Authority

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Anne KARKACHI

the designated Offices concerned the elected Offices concerned

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

other:

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

IT COOPERATION TREAT'

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

Commissioner **US Department of Commerce** United States Patent and Trademark Office, PCT 2011 South Clark Place Room

CP2/5C24 Arlington, VA 22202

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 12 January 2001 (12.01.01)	ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE in its capacity as elected Office
International application No. PCT/EP00/04231	Applicant's or agent's file reference 101636/KS/JJ
International filing date (day/month/year) 09 May 2000 (09.05.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 04 June 1999 (04.06.99)
Applicant	
HAUMONT, Serge et al	

1.	. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:
	X in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
	03 October 2000 (03.10.00)
	in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:
2.	. The election X was
2.	was not
	made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

R. E. Stoffel

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference		of Transmittal of International Search Report 220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
101636/KS/JJ International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)
PCT/EP 00/04231	09/05/2000	04/06/1999
Applicant		
NOKIA NETWORKS OY		
This lateractional Course Dana data has		
according to Article 18. A copy is being tra	en prepared by this International Searching Autl ansmitted to the International Bureau.	nority and is transmitted to the applicant
This International Search Report consists It is also accompanied by	of a total of3 sheets. If a copy of each prior art document cited in this	report.
Basis of the report		
 With regard to the language, the language in which it was filed, unl 	international search was carried out on the bas less otherwise indicated under this item.	sis of the international application in the
the international search w Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).	vas carried out on the basis of a translation of the	he international application furnished to this
b. With regard to any nucleotide an was carried out on the basis of the	d/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the in esequence listing:	ternational application, the international search
	onal application in written form.	_
	rnational application in computer readable forn this Authority in written form.	n.
	this Authority in computer readble form.	
the statement that the sub	osequently furnished written sequence listing do	oes not go beyond the disclosure in the
the statement that the info	s filed has been furnished. ormation recorded in computer readable form is	identical to the written sequence listing has been
furnished		
2. Certain claims were four	nd unsearchable (See Box I).	
3. Unity of invention is lack	dng (see Box II).	•
4. With regard to the title,		
the text is approved as sut	omitted by the applicant.	
=	ned by this Authority to read as follows:	
<u></u>	I IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIO	N NETWORK
-		
E Mith report to the abotract		
5. With regard to the abstract,	amitted by the appliance	
	ornitied by the applicant. ned, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority date of mailing of this international search repo	
6. The figure of the drawings to be publis		2a
X as suggested by the applic	eant.	None of the figures.
because the applicant faile	d to suggest a figure.	
because this figure better o	characterizes the invention.	



rernational application No.

PCT/EP 00/04231

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

Line 1: "...(10a), such as a radio network controller, for use..."
Line 1: "...communication network (e.g. UMTS), said..."
Line 3: "...element (14), for example an SGSN, wherein..."

onal Application No EP 00/04231

	FICATION HOAC			
ንር				

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ \mbox{IPC 7} & \mbox{H04Q} \end{array}$

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 568 212 A (NOKIA MOBILE PHONES LTD) 3 November 1993 (1993-11-03)	1-3,16, 17,19,20
Y	column 4, line 34 -column 5, line 28	4
Υ ~	EP 0 888 022 A (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC) 30 December 1998 (1998-12-30) column 8, line 52 -column 9, line 58	4
Α .	WO 95 08898 A (NOKIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS OY ;MUSZYNSKI PETER (FI)) 30 March 1995 (1995-03-30) page 15, line 5 - line 35	1-4,16, 17,19,20
	 -/	,

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
 Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed 	 "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
15 August 2000	22/08/2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	Schut, G

1

on patent family members

PCAP 00/04231

DE 69313913 D 23-10-199 DE 69313913 T 05-03-199 JP 2994527 B 27-12-193 JP 6022364 A 28-01-199 US 5345448 A 06-09-199 EP 0888022 A 30-12-1998 CA 2235669 A 24-12-199 NO 982919 A 28-12-199 CA 2235688 A 24-12-199 CA 2235876 A 24-12-199 CA 2235876 A 24-12-199 CA 2235870 A 24-12-199 CA 2235870 A 24-12-199 CA 2235870 A 10-04-199 EP 0720804 A 10-07-199 FI 961315 A 21-05-199 JP 9505949 T 10-06-199 JP 9505949 T 10-06-199 US 5850607 A 15-12-199 WO 9927741 A 03-06-1999 AU 1448299 A 15-06-199 WO 9927741 A 03-06-1999 AU 1448299 A 15-06-199 EP 0898438 A 24-02-1999 FI 973425 A 21-02-199 WO 9909774 A 25-02-199 WO 9909774 A 25-02-199	_					
DE 69313913 D 23-10-199 DE 69313913 T 05-03-199 JP 2994527 B 27-12-199 JP 6022364 A 28-01-199 US 5345448 A 06-09-199 EP 0888022 A 30-12-1998 CA 2235669 A 24-12-199 NO 982919 A 28-12-199 CA 2235688 A 24-12-199 CA 2235688 A 24-12-199 CA 2235876 A 24-12-199 CA 2235870 A 24-12-199 CA 2235870 A 24-12-199 CA 2235870 A 10-04-199 EP 0720804 A 10-07-199 FI 961315 A 21-05-199 JP 9505949 T 10-06-199 JP 9505949 T 10-06-199 US 5850607 A 15-12-199 WO 9927741 A 03-06-1999 AU 1448299 A 15-06-199 WO 9927741 A 03-06-1999 AU 1448299 A 15-06-199 GB 2313259 A 19-11-1997 NONE EP 0898438 A 24-02-1999 FI 973425 A 21-02-199 WO 9909774 A 25-02-199 WO 9909774 A 25-02-199						
JP 11103487 A 13-04-199 NO 982919 A 28-12-199 CA 2235688 A 24-12-199 CA 2235876 A 24-12-199 CA 2235870 A 24-12-199 WO 9508898 A 30-03-1995 AU 684719 B 08-01-199 AU 4821093 A 10-04-199 EP 0720804 A 10-07-199 JP 9505949 T 10-06-199 JP 9505949 T 10-06-199 NO 961193 A 22-05-199 US 5850607 A 15-12-199 WO 9927741 A 03-06-1999 AU 1448299 A 15-06-199 GB 2313259 A 19-11-1997 NONE EP 0898438 A 24-02-1999 FI 973425 A 21-02-199 AU 7045198 A 08-03-199 FI 990988 A 30-04-199 WO 9909774 A 25-02-199	EP 0568212	А	03-11-1993	DE DE JP JP	69313913 D 69313913 T 2994527 B 6022364 A	28-10-1993 23-10-1997 05-03-1998 27-12-1999 28-01-1994 06-09-1994
AU 4821093 A 10-04-199 EP 0720804 A 10-07-199 FI 961315 A 21-05-199 JP 9505949 T 10-06-199 NO 961193 A 22-05-199 US 5850607 A 15-12-199 WO 9927741 A 03-06-1999 AU 1448299 A 15-06-199 GB 2313259 A 19-11-1997 NONE EP 0898438 A 24-02-1999 FI 973425 A 21-02-199 AU 7045198 A 08-03-199 FI 990988 A 30-04-199 WO 9909774 A 25-02-199	EP 0888022	A	30-12-1998	JP NO CA CA	11103487 A 982919 A 2235688 A 2235876 A	24-12-1998 13-04-1999 28-12-1998 24-12-1998 24-12-1998
GB 2313259 A 19-11-1997 NONE EP 0898438 A 24-02-1999 FI 973425 A 21-02-199	WO 9508898	Α	30-03-1995	AU EP FI JP NO	4821093 A 0720804 A 961315 A 9505949 T 961193 A	08-01-1998 10-04-1995 10-07-1996 21-05-1996 10-06-1997 22-05-1996 15-12-1998
EP 0898438 A 24-02-1999 FI 973425 A 21-02-199 AU 7045198 A 08-03-199 FI 990988 A 30-04-199 W0 9909774 A 25-02-199	WO 9927741	Α	03-06-1999	AU	1448299 A	15-06-1999
AU 7045198 A 08-03-199 FI 990988 A 30-04-199 WO 9909774 A 25-02-199	GB 2313259	Α	19-11-1997	NONE		
	EP 0898438	A	24-02-1999	AU FI WO	7045198 A 990988 A 9909774 A	21-02-1999 08-03-1999 30-04-1999 25-02-1999 23-04-1999

Internal Application No PCIPEP 00/04231

C.(Continu	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	PC P 00/04231
ategory °		Relevant to claim No.
	W0 99 27741 A (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M) 3 June 1999 (1999-06-03) page 14, line 18 - line 23 page 20, line 20 -page 22, line 10 page 24, line 9 - line 21 page 28, line 7 -page 30, line 21; figures 9,14	1-5,13, 16-19,22
	GB 2 313 259 A (MOTOROLA ISRAEL LTD) 19 November 1997 (1997-11-19) abstract	9
	EP 0 898 438 A (NOKIA MOBILE PHONES LTD) 24 February 1999 (1999-02-24)	

1



PCT

REQUEST

For receive	ng Office use only
International Application No.	
	,
International Filing Date	
	09/980376
Name of receiving Office and '	"PCT International Application"

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicant's or agent's file reference 101636/KS/JJ (if desired) (12 characters maximum) Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION A NETWORK ELEMENT APPLICANT Box No. II Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.) This person is also inventor. Telephone No. Nokia Networks Oy Keilalahdentie 4 Facsimile No. FIN-02150 ESPOO Finland Teleprinter No. State (that is, country) of nationality: State (that is, country) of residence: Finland Finland all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States the States indicated in This person is applicant of America only the Supplemental Box for the purposes of: FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S) Box No. III Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State This person is: of residence is indicated below.) applicant only HAUMONT, Serge applicant and inventor Riistavuorenkuja 3 B As. 10 FIN-00320 Helsinki inventor only (If this check-box Finland is marked, do not fill in below.) State (that is, country) of residence: State (that is, country) of nationality: Finland Finland the States indicated in the Supplemental Box all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States This person is applicant for the purposes of: of America only Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet. AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE Box No. IV The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf common representative agent of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as: Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.) Telephone No. 020 7831-7929 STYLE, Kelda Camilla Karen Facsimile No. 020 7831-8040 Page White & Farrer 54 Doughty Street Teleprinter No. London WC1N 2LS 8955681 United Kingdom Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Continuation of Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)								
If none of the following sub-boxes is used, this sheet should not be included in the request.								
Name and address: (Fam designation. The address address indicated in this B of residence is indicated by H		x applie	n is: cant only cant and inventor tor only (If this check-box ked, do not fill in below.)					
State (that is, country) of na		• 1 1	State (that is, o	country) of resid				
This person is applicant		inland	States except	the Uni	ted States	inland the States indicated in		
This person is applicant for the purposes of:	all designated States	the United Sta	States except ites of America		rica only	the Supplemental Box		
Name and address: (Fami designation. The address i address indicated in this Bo of residence is indicated bo	ly name followed by ; nust include postal co x is the applicant's S. elow.)	given name; for a lode and name of country)	egal entity, full (ury. The country of residence if n	official v of the o State	applic	ant only ant and inventor or only (If this check-box ed, do not fill in below.)		
State (that is, country) of na	itionality:		State (that is, c	country) of resid	lence:			
					1 6	— d. C		
This person is applicant for the purposes of:	all designated States	all designated State	States except es of America	of Amer	ed States ica only	the States indicated in the Supplemental Box		
Name and address: (Famildesignation. The address in address indicated in this Bostof residence is indicated be	x is the applicant's St	riven name; for a le de and name of count ate (that is, country) (gal entity, full o tiv. The country of residence if no	official of the State T	application	is: ant only ant and inventor or only (If this check-box and do not fill in below.)		
State (that is, country) of nat	tionality:		State (that is, co	ountry) of resid	ence:			
This person is applicant for the purposes of:	all designated States	all designated State	States except es of America	the Unite of Ameri	ed States ica only	the States indicated in the Supplemental Box		
Name and address: (Family designation. The address in address indicated in this Bos of residence is indicated hel	ust include postal cod x is the applicant's Sta	le and name of count	ry The country	of the	applica	is: unt only unt and inventor or only (If this check-box ed. do not fill in below.)		
State (that is, country) of nat	ionality:		State (that is, cou	untry) of reside	nce:			
This person is applicant for the purposes of:	all designated States	all designated State		the Unite of Ameri		the States indicated in the Supplemental Box		
Further applicants an	d/or (further) invento	ors are indicated on	another continu	ation sheet.	•			

I	Box N	0.V DESIGNATION OF STATES										
1	he fo	ollowing designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a)	mar	k the c	applicable check-boxes; at least one must be marked):							
F	Regio	nal Patent										
₫	Z] AI	P ARIPO Patent: GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, SD Sudan, SL Sierra Leone, SZ Swaziland TZ United Republic of Tanzania, UG Uganda, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harard Protocol and of the PCT										
		Eurasian Patent: AM Armenia, AZ Azerbaijan, BY Belarus, KG Kyrgyzstan, KZ Kazakhstan, MD Republic of Moldova RU Russian Federation, TJ Tajikistan, TM Turkmenistan, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Paten Convention and of the PCT										
		 DK Denmark, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB U MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, Convention and of the PCT 	Unit , and	ed Ki dany (Switzerland and Liechtenstein, CY Cyprus, DE Germany ngdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg other State which is a Contracting State of the European Paten							
Ē	₫ OA	GA Gabon, GN Guinea, GW Guinea-Bissau, ML Mali, other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contra	MIF actir	₹ Mau ng Sta	an Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroon aritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any te of the PCT (if other kind of protection or treatment desired							
N	ation	nal Patent (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, spe										
		United Arab Emirates	_	_	Liberia							
_	_	Albania		LS								
		I Armenia	_	-	Lithuania							
		Austria	_		Luxembourg							
		Australia			Latvia							
_	=	Azerbaijan		-	Morocco							
, –	_	Bosnia and Herzegovina			Republic of Moldova							
		Barbados			Madagascar							
		Bulgaria										
				IVIK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia							
_	-	Brazil	F 71									
		Belarus			Mongolia							
		Canada			/ Malawi							
	-	and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein			Mexico							
		China	_		Norway							
×		Costa Rica		NZ	New Zealand							
X		Cuba		PL	Poland							
_		Czech Republic	X	PT	Portugal							
		Germany	X	RO	Romania							
		Denmark	X	RU	Russian Federation							
		Dominica	X	SD	Sudan							
X	EE	Estonia	\mathbf{X}	SE	Sweden							
×	ES	Spain	\times	SG	Singapore							
X	FI	Finland	\boxtimes	SI	Slovenia							
X	GB	United Kingdom	\boxtimes	SK	Slovakia							
		Grenada	\mathbf{X}	SL	Sierra Leone							
		Georgia	X	TJ	Tajikistan							
\boxtimes	GH	Ghana	X	TM	Turkmenistan							
		Gambia	X	TR	Turkey							
\mathbf{X}	HR	Croatia	X	TT	Trinidad and Tobago							
X	HU	Hungary	X	TZ	United Republic of Tanzania							
X	ID	Indonesia	X	ŲΑ	Ukraine							
\boxtimes	IL			UG	Uganda							
\boxtimes	IN	India	X	US	United States of America							
X	IS	Iceland										
X	JP	Japan	X	UZ	Uzbekistan							
\boxtimes	KE		X	VN	Viet Nam							
\boxtimes	KG		\boxtimes	YU	Yugoslavia							
		Democratic People's Republic of Korea		ZA	South Africa							
_	_		X	zw	Zimbabwe							
ΙZΙ	KR	Republic of Korea	Che	eck-b	oxes reserved for designating States which have party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet:							
<u> </u>	K7	Kazakhstan	bec	ome p	party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet:							
		Saint Lucia	X	ке	oublic of Seychelles							
			図_	An	tigua & Barbuda							
Ø	LL	JII LUIKA	SQ F	eop.	le's Democratic Republic of Algeria							

Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation (including fees) must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

Supplemental Box

If the Supplemental Box is not used, this sheet should not be included in the request.

If, in any of the Boxes, the space is insufficient to furnish all the information: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. [indicate the number of the Box] and furnish the information in the same manner as required according to the captions of the Box in which the space was insufficient, in particular:

- if more than two persons are involved as applicants and/or inventors and no "continuation sheet" is available: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. III" and indicate for each additional person the same type of information as required in Box No. III. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated
- if, in Box No. II or in any of the sub-boxes of Box No. III, the indication "the States indicated in the Supplemental Box" is checked: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. II" or "Continuation of Box No. II" or "Continuation of Box No. III" (as the case may be), indicate the name of the applicant(s) involved and, next to (each) such name, the State(s) (and/or, where applicable, ARIPO, Eurasian, European or OAPI patent) for the purposes of which the named person is applicant;
- if, in Box No. II or in any of the sub-boxes of Box No. III, the inventor or the inventor/applicant is not inventor for the purposes of all designated States or for the purposes of the United States of America: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. II" or "Continuation of Box No. III" or "Continuation of Boxes No. II and No. III" (as the case may be), indicate the name of the inventor(s) and, next to (each) such name, the State(s) (and/or, where applicable, ARIPO, Eurasian, European or OAPI patent) for the purposes of which the named person is inventor;
- (iv) if, in addition to the agent(s) indicated in Box No. IV, there are further agents: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. IV" and indicate for each further agent the same type of information as required in Box No. IV;
- if, in Box No. V, the name of any State (or OAPI) is accompanied by the indication "patent of addition," or "certificate of addition." or if, in Box No. V, the name of the United States of America is accompanied by an indication "continuation" or "continuation-in-part": in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. V" and the name of each State involved (or OAPI), and after the name of each such State (or OAPI), the number of the parent title or parent application and the date of grant of the parent title or filing
- (vi) if, in Box No. VI, there are more than three earlier applications whose priority is claimed: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. VI" and indicate for each additional earlier application the same type of information as required in Box No. VI;
- (vii) if, in Box No. VI, the earlier application is an ARIPO application: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. VI", specify the number of the item corresponding to that earlier application and indicate at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property or one Member of the World Trade Organization for which that earlier application was filed.
- 2. If, with regard to the precautionary designation statement contained in Box No. V, the applicant wishes to exclude any State(s) from the scope of that statement: in such case, write "Designation(s) excluded from precautionary designation statement" and indicate the name or two-letter code of each State so excluded.
- If the applicant claims, in respect of any designated Office, the benefits of provisions of the national law concerning non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty: in such case, write "Statement concerning non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty" and furnish that statement below.

Continuation of Box IV

Agents continues

PALMER, ROGER (GB) RICHARDS, DAVID JOHN (GB) PENDLEBURY, ANTHONY (GB) JENKINS, PETER DAVID (GB) DRIVER, VIRGINIA ROZANNE (GB) DANIELS, JEFFERY NICHOLAS (GB) NEOBARD, WILLIAM JOHN (GB) SHACKLETON, NICOLA (GB) SLINGSBY, PHILIP ROY (GB) HILL, CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL (GB) RUUSKANEN, JUHA-PEKKA (FIN)

ALL OF:

PAGE WHITE & FARRER 54 Doughty Street London WC1N 2LS United Kingdom



Sheet No.

Box No. VI PRIORITY C	LAIM				Further pri	iority claims are indicated	d in the Supplemental Box
Filing date		Where earlier application is:					
of earlier application (day/month/year)	of ea	rlier applicati	ion		application: antry	regional application:* regional Office	international application receiving Office
item (1)							
04/06/99	991	3092.4		GI	3 ·		
item (2)							
item (3)							
The receiving Office is recoff the earlier application (purposes of the present in	s) (only i	f the earlier o	applica	ation was fi	led with the	Office which for the	
* Where the earlier application is Convention for the Protection of In							e country party to the Paris upplemental Box.
Box No. VII INTERNATIO							
Choice of International Search	arching A	uthoritiès are	Requ	uest to use ! h has been ca	results of ea	rlier search; reference r requested from the Internat	to that search (if an earlie tional Searching Authority):
competent to carry out the internation the Authority chosen; the two-letter			l	(day/month/y	•		Country (or regional Office)
ISA/EP				.11.99		RS 103389	EP
Box No. VIII CHECK LIST							
This international application c the following number of sheet		1 _			is accompa	nied by the item(s) marke	ed below:
request :	5	1. X fee c			. • . • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
description (excluding sequence listing part) : 1	.5	2.	•	-	•	reference number, if any	r:
claims :	3	-	_		ick of signat		
abstract :	1	_			_	Box No. VI as item(s):	
drawings :	3	6. 🔲 trans	lation	of internation	onal applicat	ion into (language):	
sequence listing part of description :		7. 🔲 separ	rate inc	dications co	ncerning dep	osited microorganism or	other biological material
or description .		8. 🔲 nucle	eotide a	and/or amin	o acid seque	nce listing in computer re	eadable form
Total number of sheets: 2	7	9. dther	(speci	ify):			
Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract:	2	2 a		guage of fili national app		English	
Box No. IX SIGNATURE (OF APPI	LICANT OR	AGE	NT	*		
Next to each signature, indicate the nan	e of the per	rson signing and	the cap	acity in which	the person sign	s (if such capacity is not obviou	us from reading the request).
							,
KELDA CAM	ILLA	KAREN S	STYI	LE	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		(Agent)
		Fo	or rece	iving Offic	use only -		
 Date of actual receipt of the international application: 	purported	i					2. Drawings:
 Corrected date of actual rece timely received papers or dra the purported international ar 	wings co	mpleting					received:
 Date of timely receipt of the corrections under PCT Articl 	e 11(2):						not received:
5. International Searching Author (if two or more are competent	ority t): ISA	A/		6.	Transmitta until searc	l of search copy delayed h fee is paid.	
		For I	nterna	tional Burea	u use only .		
Date of receipt of the record cop	у						



PCT

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE **COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL** APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

STYLE, Kelda, Camilla, Karen Page White & Farrer 54 Doughty Street London WC1N 2LS

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

ROYAUME UNITECEIVED 2 1 DEC 2000

IMPORTANT NOTICE

14 December 2000 (14.12.00)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 101636/KS/JJ

International application No. PCT/EP00/04231

International filing date (day/month/year)

09 May 2000 (09.05.00)

Priority date (day/month/year) 04 June 1999 (04.06.99)

Applicant

NOKIA NETWORKS OY et al

Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:

AG, AU, DZ, KP, KR, US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:

AE,AL,AM,AP,AT,AZ,BA,BB,BG,BR,BY,CA,CH,CN,CR,CU,CZ,DE,DK,DM,EA,EE,EP,ES,FI,GB,GD, GE,GH,GM,HR,HU,ID,IL,IN,IS,JP,KE,KG,KZ,LC,LK,LR,LS,LT,LU,LV,MA,MD,MG,MK,MN,MW,MX, NO,NZ,OA,PL,PT,RO,RU,SD,SE,SG,SI,SK,SL,TJ,TM,TR,TT,TZ,UA,UG,UZ,VN,YU,ZA,ZW The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 14 December 2000 (14.12.00) under No. WO 00/76243

REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the national phase, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

J. Zahra

Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38

Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35

The demand must be filed directly wit	h the competent Internation	al Preliminary Examin	ting Authority or, if two	or more Authorities ar	e competent
with the one chosen by the applicant.	The full name or two-lette	r code of that Authorit	y may be indicated by th	he applicant on the lin	e below:

IPEA/		

PCT

CHAPTER II

DEMAND

under Article 31 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

The undersigned requests that the international application specified below be the subject of international preliminary examination according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty and hereby elects all eligible States (except where otherwise indicated).

Fo	r International Preliminar	y Examining Authorit	y use only	
Identification of IPEA		Date of receipt of D		
Box No. I IDENTIFICATION OF T	HE INTERNATIONAL	APPLICATION	Applicant's or agent's file reference 101636/KCS/DG	
International application No.	International filing date	(day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority date (day/month/year)	
PCT/EP00/04231	09.05.00		04.06.99	
Title of invention				
A NETWORK ELEMENT				
Box No. II APPLICANT(S)				
Name and address: (Family name followed by The address must include p	given name; for a legal entity, costal code and name of country.	full official designation.)	Telephone No.:	
NOKIA NETWORKS OY KEILALAHDENTIE 4			Facsimile No.:	
FIN-02150 ESPOO FINLAND			Teleprinter No.:	
State (that is, country) of nationality:		State (that is, country) of residence: FINLAND		
FINLAND		<u> </u>	address must include postal code and name of country.)	
HAUMONT, SERGE RIISTAVUORENKUJA 3 B AS. 10 FIN-00320 HELSINKI FINLAND		, -		
State (that is, country) of nationality:		State (that is, countr	ry) of residence:	
FINLAND		FINLAND		
	given name; for a legal entity, fi	ıll official designation. The	address must include postal code and name of country.)	
State (that is, country) of nationality:		State (that is, country,	of residence:	
FINLAND		FINLAND		
Further applicants are indicated on	a continuation sheet.			

Sheet No. 2...

International application No. PCT/EP00/04231

Box No. III AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CO	RRESPONDENCE		
The following person is agent common representative			
and 🗶 has been appointed earlier and represents the applicant(s) also for international pro-	eliminary examination.		
is hereby appointed and any earlier appointment of (an) agent(s)/common represen			
is hereby appointed, specifically for the procedure before the International Prelimi			
the agent(s)/common representative appointed earlier.			
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)	Telephone No.:		
KELDA STYLE	020 7831-7929		
PAGE WHITE & FARRER	Facsimile No.:		
54 Doughty Street	020 7831-8040		
London WC1N 2LS United Kingdom			
	Teleprinter No.:		
	8955681		
Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common respace above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence	should be sent.		
Box No. IV BASIS FOR INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION			
Statement concerning amendments:*			
1. The applicant wishes the international preliminary examination to start on the basis of:			
the international application as originally filed			
the description as originally filed			
as amended under Article 34			
the claims as originally filed			
as amended under Article 19 (together with any accompanying	statement)		
as amended under Article 34			
and the state of t			
the drawings as originally filed as amended under Article 34	·		
2. The applicant wishes any amendment to the claims under Article 19 to be consider			
3. The applicant wishes the start of the international preliminary examination to be po	stponed until the expiration of 20 months		
from the priority date unless the International Preliminary Examining Authority re under Article 19 or a notice from the applicant that he does not wish to make such a	mendments (Rule 69.1(d)). (This check-		
box may be marked only where the time limit under Article 19 has not yet expired.) ·		
* Where no check-box is marked, international preliminary examination will start on the as originally filed or, where a copy of amendments to the claims under Article 19 and/or and under Article 34 are received by the International Preliminary Examining Authority before	nendments of the international application		
or the international preliminary examination report, as so amended.			
Language for the purposes of international preliminary examination: English			
which is the language in which the international application was filed. which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of internation	al search		
which is the language of publication of the international application.			
which is the language of the translation (to be) furnished for the purposes of in	ternational preliminary examination.		
Box No. V ELECTION OF STATES The applicant hereby elects all eligible States (that is, all States which have been designated and which are bound by Chapter II of			
the PCT)			
excluding the following States which the applicant wishes not to elect:			

	Sheet]	No3.	International appl PCT/E	lication No. EP00/04231
Box No. VI CHECK LIST			-	
The demand is accompanied by the following elements and its accompanies by the following elements are the second properties.	ments, in the lan	iguage referred to in ination:		onal Preliminary uthority use only not received
1. translation of international application	:	sheets		
2. amendments under Article 34	:	sheets		
copy (or, where required, translation) of amendments under Article 19	:	sheets		
4. copy (or, where required, translation) of statement under Article 19	:	sheets		
5. letter	:	sheets		
6. other (specify)	:	sheets		
The demand is also accompanied by the item(s) ma	arked below:	4. statement exp	plaining lack of sign	ature
separate signed power of attorney		5. nucleotide and computer read	d or amino acid sequable form	uence listing in
copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any:		6. other (specify,		
Box No. VII SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, A				
Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing KELDA CAMILLA KAREN STYLE Professional Representative	and the capacity in t	which the person signs (y such o	capacity is not obvious j	om reading the demand.
For Internation	nal Preliminary	Examining Authority use	only	
1. Date of actual receipt of DEMAND:		·		
Adjusted date of receipt of demand due to CORRECTIONS under Rule 60.1(b):				
The date of receipt of the demand is AFTER the expiration of 19 months from the priority date and item 4 or 5, below, does not apply. The date of receipt of the demand is AFTER the expiration of 19 months from the priority date and item 4 or 5, below, does not apply.				
4. The date of receipt of the demand is Rule 80.5.				·
5. Although the date of receipt of the demand is after the expiration of 19 months from the priority date, the delay in arrival is EXCUSED pursuant to Rule 82.				
F	For International	Bureau use only		X.
Demand received from IPEA on:				

EC'D 2 4 AUG 2001

WIPO

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

PCT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

14

		117
Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
101636/KCS/DG		
International application No.	International filing date (day/mor	
PCT/EP00/04231	09/05/2000	04/06/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC)	or national classification and IPC	
H04Q7/38		
Applicant		
NOKIA NETWORKS OY et al.		
		and by this International Preliminary Evamining Authority
This international preliminary and is transmitted to the application.	examination report has been prepar cant according to Article 36.	ed by this International Preliminary Examining Authority
	· ·	
2. This REPORT consists of a to	otal of 6 sheets, including this cover	sheet.
This report is also accom	panied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of	the description, claims and/or drawings which have
been amended and are the	ne basis for this report and/or sheet: tion 607 of the Administrative Instru	s containing rectifications made before this Authority
•		·····
These annexes consist of a to	otal of 4 sheets.	
O This report southing indication	ns relating to the following items:	
3. This report contains indication	is relating to the following items.	
Basis of the report	rt	
Ⅱ □ Priority		
<u></u>		inventive step and industrial applicability
IV Lack of unity of in		
V ⊠ Reasoned statem citations and exp	nent under Article 35(2) with regard lanations suporting such statement	to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
VI ☐ Certain documer		
	the international application	
VIII Certain observati	ons on the international application	
Date of submission of the demand	Date	of completion of this report
03/10/2000 22.08.2001		
		adand officer
Name and mailing address of the inter preliminary examining authority:	national Auth	orized officer
European Patent Office		
D-80298 Munich Tel +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx:		opel, J

Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8246

Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465



International application No. PCT/EP00/04231

I. Basis	of the	report
----------	--------	--------

1.	the i and	receiving Office in	nents of the international applic response to an invitation under o this report since they do not c	Article 14 are	referred to in this rep	ort as "originally filed"			
	1,3-	15	as originally filed						
	2		as received on	21/07/2001	with letter of	19/07/2001			
	Clai	ms, No.:							
	1-21		as received on	21/07/2001	with letter of	19/07/2001			
	Drav	wings, sheets:							
	1/3-	3/3	as originally filed						
2.	2. With regard to the language , all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority is language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.				r this item.				
	me	These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:							
		• •	translation furnished for the pu			ınder Rule 23.1(b)).			
		• • •	ublication of the international a						
		the language of a 55.2 and/or 55.3).	translation furnished for the pu	rposes of inte	rnational preliminary e	examination (under Rule			
3.	With inte	With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the nternational preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:							
		contained in the in	nternational application in writte	en form.					
		filed together with	the international application in	computer rea	dable form.				
		furnished subseq	uently to this Authority in writter	n form.					
		furnished subseq	uently to this Authority in comp	uter readable	form.				
		The statement the	at the subsequently furnished v application as filed has been fu	vritten sequend rnished.	ce listing does not go	beyond the disclosure in			
		The statement the listing has been f	at the information recorded in curnished.	omputer reada	able form is identical to	o the written sequence			
4.	The	e amendments hav	re resulted in the cancellation o	f:					



International application No. PCT/EP00/04231

		the description,	pages:		
		the claims,	Nos.:		
		the drawings,	sheets:		
5.					ome of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):
		(Any replacement sh report.)	eet contain	ning such	amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this
6.	Add	litional observations, i	f necessary	/ :	
v.	Rea cita	soned statement un tions and explanation	der Article	e 35(2) wi	ith regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; h statement
1.	Stat	tement			
	Nov	velty (N)	Yes: No:		10,11,20,21 1-9,12-19
	Inve	entive step (IS)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-21
	Indi	ustrial applicability (IA) Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-21
2.		ations and explanation separate sheet	ıs		

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted: see separate sheet

With respect to item V:

- The following documents (D) are referred to in this communication; the numbering 1 will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:
 - D1: WO 99 27741 A (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M) 3 June 1999 (1999-06-03)
- Document D1, which is regarded to represent the closest prior art to the subject-2 matter of claim 1, relates to a move-over procedure for a CDMA base mobile telecommunications system wherein diversity connections and soft-handover are used. Different Mobile Switching Centers (MSC) and Radio Network Controllers (RNC) are involved into a move-over of the diversity handling function as shown in figures 11 to 12C. After having switched the diversity handling function from a first RNC to a second RNC, the connection might be switched via another MSC thus eliminating the old MSC and RNC from the connection path.

Hence, document D1 discloses, according to the features of claim 1, a network element (figure 12, 1221) for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station (figure 12: MS) and an end element (figure 12: 1242), wherein connections are established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element (fig. 12: 132), said network element comprising means for determining if the connection between said end element and said end station is to be released (fig. 12C; page 27, lines 3-11).

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

The scope of present claim 1 is so broad that also a call release procedure initiated by a mobile terminal, detected by a Mobile Switching Center sending an ISUP release message to an interoffice exchange could be considered as falling within the scope of claim 1.

Independent claim 19 relates to a network comprising a network element as 3 defined in any of claims 1 to 18. Such a network element is already known from document D1 (see the comments and citations regarding claim 1). As already explained above, document D1 discloses also a network comprising an end element and a mobile station.

The subject-matter of claim 19 is therefore not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

- Dependent claims 2 to 18, 20 and 21 do not contain any features which, in 4 combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty or inventive step for the following reasons:
- 4.1 The subject-matter of dependent claims 2 to 9 and 12 to 18 is already known from document D1.

claims 2-8:

figure 14; page 28, line 6 to page 30, line 21;

claim 9:

figure 9: 9-4; page 20, line 20 to page 21, line 9;

claim 12-17:

page 6, lines 14-20;

claim 18:

figure 13: 122₁.

The subject-matter of claims 2 to 9 and 12 to 18 is therefore not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

4.2 Dependent claims 10, 11, 20 and 21 relate to further design details and arrangements of the end station, the end element and the network which are obvious for a person skilled in the art. The subject-matter of claims 10, 11, 20 and 21 is therefore not based on an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

With respect to item VII:

- Independent claims 1 and 19 are not in the two-part form recommended by Rule 1 6.3(b) PCT having a pre-characterizing portion which correctly reflects the prior art of document D1.
- The relevant background art disclosed in document D1 is not taken into account 2

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY

International application No. PCT/EP00/04231

EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

within the opening part of the description (Rule 5.1 a) ii) and iii) PCT).

- The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in 3 parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
- Claim 20 should apparently be dependent on claim 19 (and not 19 or 20). Claim 4 21 should be dependent on claims 19 or 20 (and not 19, 20 or 21).

PCT/EP00/04231

TWO 00/76243 core network is unable to predict the traffic which is to be transmitted between the core network and the mobile station and vice versa.

- It has been proposed that a timer mechanism be used by the core network in order to control the release of connection. For example, if a packet of data has not been received for X seconds, then the connection is released.
- This method has the problem that the core network may not 10 release this connection at an appropriate time. This is because the core network is not aware of parameters of the radio network controller or the mobile station which might indicate that an earlier break in the connection was 15 appropriate. This may result in connections being maintained longer than required. This unnecessarily uses up resources within the network, which may reduce the amount of traffic which can be supported.

20 Summary of the Invention

It is an aim of embodiments of the present invention to address this problem.

25 According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a network element for use in a communications network, said network element being arranged between an end an end element, wherein connections station and established between said end station and said end element 30 via said network element, said network element comprising means for determining if the connection between said end element and said end station is to be released.

CLAIMS:

1. A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between an end station and an end element, wherein connections are established between said end station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising means for determining if the connection between said end element and said end station is to be released.

10

2. A network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network element is arranged to release said connection when the determining means determines that the connection is to be released.

15

- 3. A network element is claimed in claim 2, wherein said network element is arranged to release the connection between the network element and said end station.
- 4. A network element as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein said network element is arranged to send a message to the end element indicating that said connection has been released.
- 25 5. A network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network element is arranged to send a request for the connection to be released to said end station.
- 6. A network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein the end element sends a connection release command to said network element in response to the release request received by said network element, said network element controlling the release of said connection.

7. A network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said network element is arranged to send a release request to said end station in response to the release command received from said end element.

5

10

15

- 8. A network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said network element is arranged to send a message to said end element advising that the connection has been released.
- 9. A network element as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.
- 10. A network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the type of traffic for which the connection is intended.
- 20 11. A network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the quality of service profile of the traffic for which the connection is intended.
- 12. A network element as claimed in any preceding claim, 25 wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the end station.
- 13. A network element as claimed in any preceding claim, 30 wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the end station.

14. A network element as claimed in claim 13, wherein the amount of updating information received in a given time from the end station is used as a measure of the movement of the end station.

5

- 15. A network element as claimed in claim 14, wherein said updating information comprises URA updates.
- 16. A network element as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said end station.
- 17. A network element as claimed in claim 16, wherein said determining means determines that the connection should be released if the end station is associated with a different network element.
- 18. A network element as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said network element is a radio network controller.
 - 19. A network comprising a network element as claimed in any preceding claim, an end station and an end element.
- 25 20. A network as claimed in claim 19, wherein said end station is a mobile station.
 - 21. A network element as claimed in claims 19 or 20, wherein said end element is a SGSN.

30

22. A network as claimed in claims 19, 20 or 21 wherein said network operates in accordance with the UMTS Standard.

RELEASING A CONNECTION IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a network element for use in a communications network. In particular, but not exclusively, the network element is a radio network controller in a code division multiple access wireless cellular communications network.

10

15

20

Background of the Invention

The use of code division multiple access (CDMA) is being generation of cellular for the next proposed telecommunication networks. Additionally, code multiple access is also being used in the IS-95 standard in CDMA is a direct sequence spread spectrum technique. In a wireless cellular network using CDMA, the mobile stations in one cell associated with a first base station will use the same frequency as mobile stations in an adjacent cell associated with the second base station. different mobile stations can be distinguished by respective base stations as each mobile station will be using a different spreading code.

25

30

In one of the new CDMA standards which is currently being proposed, connections are made between a mobile station to a base station, from the base station to a radio network controller and from the radio network controller to a core network. The core network is arranged to control the establishment and release of connections between the mobile station and the core network. With "bursty" traffic which consists of packets of data which are sent irregularly, the

core network is unable to predict the traffic which is to be transmitted between the core network and the mobile station and vice versa.

- It has been proposed that a timer mechanism be used by the core network in order to control the release of the connection. For example, if a packet of data has not been received for X seconds, then the connection is released.
- This method has the problem that the core network may not release this connection at an appropriate time. This is because the core network is not aware of parameters of the radio network controller or the mobile station which might indicate that an earlier break in the connection was appropriate. This may result in connections being maintained longer than required. This unnecessarily uses up resources within the network, which may reduce the amount of traffic which can be supported.

20 Summary of the Invention

It is an aim of embodiments of the present invention to address this problem.

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a network element for use in a communications network, said network element being arranged between an end station and an end element, wherein connections are established between said end station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising means for determining if the connection between said end element and said end station is to be released.

Brief Description of the Drawings

For better understanding of the present invention and as to how the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made by way of example to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 shows a cellular telecommunication network in which embodiments of the present invention can be incorporated;

10 Figure 2A shows a mobile station in communication with two base stations under the control of a single radio network controller;

Figure 2B shows a mobile station in communication with two base stations, each of which is connected to a different

15 radio network controller;

30

Figure 3A shows the connection before the serving radio network controller is changed;

Figure 3B shows the connections after the serving radio network controller has been changed;

Figure 4 shows the various radio resource control modes;
Figure 5 shows a first embodiment of the present invention;
and

Figure 6 shows a second embodiment of the present invention.

25 Detailed Description of Embodiments of the Present Invention

Reference will first be made to Figure 1 in which three cells 2 of the cellular telecommunications network are shown. Each cell 2 is served by a respective base transceiver station (BTS) 4. The base station is sometimes called node B in CDMA systems. Each base transceiver station is arranged to transmit signals to and receive signals from the mobile stations 6 located in the cell

WO 00/76243

PCT/EP00/04231

associated with the given base transceiver station 4. Likewise, each mobile station 6 is able to transmit signals to and receive signals from the respective base transceiver station 4.

5

25

30

The cellular telecommunications network shown in Figure 1 uses a code division multiple access technique.

With the proposed new CDMA standard, macro diversity is possible. This means that a mobile station can be connected to more than one radio network controller RNC at the same time. However, as far as the core network is concerned, these connections are controlled by one radio network controller which is defined as the serving radio network controller SRNC. This serving radio network controller SRNC communicates with a third generation serving GPRS support node 3G-SGSN. This serving GPRS support node is analogous to that of the GPRS standard used in conjunction with the GSM standard but has been modified so as to be usable with the CDMA standard.

Reference is made to Figure 2A. In Figure 2A, a mobile station 6 is in communication with two base stations 4a and 4b. Each of these base stations 4a and 4b is connected to the same radio network controller RNC 10a. The common radio network controller 10a is thus the serving radio network controller and is connected to the core network 12. This core network 12 is represented by the dashed line and is the part of the network upstream of the serving radio network controller. The serving radio network controller 10a is in fact connected to the third generation serving GPRS support node 3G-SGSN 14 of the core network 12.

Reference is now made to Figure 2B which shows the mobile station 6 connected to two base stations 4c and However, unlike in Figure 2A, one base station 4c connected to one radio network controller 10c whilst the other base station 4d is connected to a second radio network controller 10b. One of these radio network controllers acts as the serving radio network controller SRNC 10b. In the embodiment shown in Figure 2B, the second radio network controller 10b acts as the serving radio network controller. The other radio network controller 10c is defined as being a 10 drift radio network controller DRNC. The drift radio network controller 10c is connected to the serving radio network controller 10b. The serving radio network controller 10b is, as in the arrangement shown in Figure 2A, 15 connected to the SGSN 14. In the arrangement shown in Figure 2A, the drift radio network controller and the serving radio network controller are the same radio network controller.

20 The serving radio network controller 10a or b is able to combine information received from the mobile station 6 via the two different base stations 4a-d, regardless of whether or not the base stations are connected to the same radio network controller or different radio network controllers. 25 In the latter situation, the drift radio network controller 10c would forward information from the respective base station 4c to the serving radio network controller 10b. serving radio network controller 10b also copies information which is intended for a given mobile station 6 to the relevant drift radio network controller 10c so that the base 30 station 4c connected to the serving radio network controller 10b as well as the base station connected to the drift radio

WO 00/76243

PCT/EP00/04231

network controller 10c can be transmit the same information, where appropriate, to the mobile station 6.

The serving radio network controller SRNC is arranged to control the information transfer and request for radio resources from the appropriate drift radio network controllers DRNC. The drift radio network controllers only relay information between the mobile station and the serving radio network controller SRNC.

10

It is preferred that the same serving radio network controller SRNC be used for packet switched traffic (i.e. data transmitted in packet form) and circuit switched traffic i.e. speech.

15

20

25

30

When a mobile station moves, the base station or base stations with which the mobile station is in communication needs to change. This may mean that a different serving radio network controller may be required. This is described in relation to Figures 3A and 3B. In the arrangement shown in Figure 3A, the mobile station 6 is in communication with a single base station 4. This base station 4 is connected to the drift radio network controller 10c. The drift radio network controller is connected to the serving radio network controller 10b, as shown in Figure 2B. The serving radio network controller is connected to the current SGSN 14 which is in turn connected to the gateway GPRS serving node 16. Accordingly, signals to and from the mobile station follow the following path: mobile station 6 to the base station 4c connected to the drift RNC 10c, to the drift RNC 10c, from the drift RNC 10c to the serving RNC 10b, from the serving RNC 10b to the current SGSN 14 and from the current SGSN 14

to the GGSN 16. The same path is used for signals from the GGSN 16 to the mobile station 6, but in reverse.

The SGSN 14 also has a connection to a home location register 18. Each radio network controller 10b and 10c is connected to respective 3G mobile services switching centres 20a and 20b. The drift radio network controller 10c is connected to a different serving GPRS support node 22, which is not in use in this mode. There is also a connection between the home location register 18 and the third generation mobile services switching center 20a connected to the serving radio network controller 10b.

5

10

now made to Figure 3B which Reference is connections which are established once the serving radio 15 network controller has changed. In this arrangement, the drift radio network controller 10c becomes the serving radio network controller. The serving radio network controller 10b may become a drift radio network controller or may not 20 be involved in communications with the mobile station 6. The mobile station continues to send and receive signals from the base station 4c connected to the new serving radio network controller 10c. The new serving radio network controller 10c has established a connection with the SGSN 22 25 to which it is connected. Signals from the serving GPRS 22 connected to the new serving radio controller 10c are passed to the GGSN 16. A connection is established between the home location register HLR 18 and the mobile services switching centre 20b connected to the new serving radio network controller 10c. A connection is 30 also established between the home location register 18 and the SGSN 22 connected to the new serving radio network controller 10c.

This relocation procedure takes place when the target radio network controller (i.e. a drift radio network controller) is controlling all of the communications to and from the mobile station. In other words, the serving radio network controller does not communicate with the mobile station 6 with any of the base stations which it controls.

The connection between the mobile station 6 and the GGSN 16 is now via the base station 4c, the new serving radio network controller 10c, and the new SGSN 22.

15

20

25

30

Radio resource control provides the common control signalling between the radio network controller and the mobile station. The same radio resource control connection is used both by speech and packet data traffic. resource control (RRC) modes are illustrated schematically Figure 4. In the RRC-idle mode 30, there is no connection established between the mobile station and the universal mobile telecommunications system terrestrial radio access network (UTRAN). UTRAN is the combination of RNC(s) If the user equipment is attached to the and BTS(s). network, but in RRC-idle mode (which implies that the mobile is not in active communication), the location is tracked by the SGSN. In this mode, there is no signalling between the UTRAN and the mobile station except for system information that is sent from the network downlink on a broadcast channel to the user equipment. The user equipment can also receive paging messages in this mode. No information on the mobile station is stored in the UTRAN in this state.

In the connected mode 32, the main states are the cell connected state 34 and the UTRAN Registration Area (URA)

connected state 36. One radio network controller will be acting as the serving radio network controller and a radio resource control connection is established between the mobile station and the serving radio network controller.

When the position of the mobile station is known on the cell level, the mobile station is in the cell connected state. The radio resource control connection mobility is handled by hand over procedures. In this state, the radio link may be use different channels:-

10

- 1. Dedicated Channel (DCH). In this channel, a spreading code is allocated to the mobile station and is solely used by that mobile station.
- 15 2. Dedicated Shared Channel (DSCH). In this channel, a spreading code is shared amongst a number of mobile stations. The radio channel is optimised for packet traffic.
- 20 3. Common Channel on the downlink and Random Access Channel on the uplink. These are common channels and are suitable for use with short packets.
- When the mobile position is known only on the URA level,
 i.e. which group of cells it is in, the mobile station is in
 the URA connected state. The URA comprises a set of cells
 of the network. In other words, the mobile station is in
 one of a plurality of cells which together define the URA.
 The URA updating procedures provide the mobility
 functioning. Paging is performed for downlink packet
 transfer.



A radio access bearer represents the connection between the SGSN and the mobile station. The radio access bearer comprises two branches. The first branch is the GTP (GPRS tunnelling protocol) tunnel between the radio controller and the SGSN. The second branch is between the mobile station and the radio network controller. one mobile station and the SGSN, there are as many radio access bearers as there are PDP (packet data protocol) context activated when a radio access bearer is established. A radio resource control connection is established between the mobile station and the radio network controller, for signalling. However, no radio access bearer established. A radio access bearer is established only when the connection between the radio network controller and the SGSN is also established.

10

15

Reference is now made to Figure 5. In this arrangement inside the radio network controller 50, a process determines that the RRC connection of a particular mobile station 20 should be released to optimise the use of resources. releasing the connection which otherwise uses unnecessary signalling, the radio resources of the conserved, thus improving capacity and/or quality. radio network controller 50 therefore sends an Iu release 25 request 54 to the SGSN 52. Iu is the interface between the radio network controller and the SGSN 52. The request sent to the SGSN 52 indicates the reason why the bearer should be released. In the embodiments of the invention, connection may be broken in order to optimise resources. 30 This will be described in more detail hereinafter.

It is known to release the connection if the operation and maintenance controller of the network has intervened and

WO 00/76243

PCT/EP00/04231

wants the connection to be broken or if there is equipment failure at some point between the mobile station and the SGSN 52.

5 The SGSN 52 decides whether or not to confirm the request for the release of the radio bearer. If the SGSN 52 agrees that the connection should be broken, a release command 56 is sent to the radio network controller 50 via the Iu interface.

10

15

20

25

30

If the radio resource connection between the radio network controller 50 and the mobile station 58 has not already been released, the radio network controller sends a radio resource control connection release message 60 to the mobile station. The mobile station releases the connection and sends a radio resource control connection released message 62 to the radio network controller 50. The radio network controller 50 then sends a confirmation 59 that the connection has been released to the SGSN 52 on the Iu interface.

Reference is now made to Figure 6 which shows an alternative embodiment to that shown in Figure 5. In the embodiment shown in Figure 6, the radio network controller 50 does not send a release request to the SGSN 52. Instead, the RNC 50 sends a release radio connection message 64 to the mobile station 58. The mobile station sends an acknowledgement message 66 to the radio network controller 50 and the therebetween is broken. The radio network connection controller 50 then advises the SGSN 52 via the Iu interface that the connection has been released. The SGSN 52 then releases all of the Iu connections. This alternative signalling is applicable particularly if there is no need of

confirmation from the SGSN. The RNC process which triggers the signalling procedure shown in Figure 5 or 6, should make the decision to release the RRC connection of a particular mobile station based (among other things) on the quality of service profile of the radio access bearer established. The process may only release the RRC connection, if the quality of service profile indicates that this bearer(s) are used for bursty traffic between the SGSN 52 and the mobile station 58. This type of traffic is indicated by the traffic class parameter.

10

15

20

One class of traffic is referred to background traffic whilst the other type of traffic is interactive traffic. Background traffic is, for example message traffic which is not time sensitive whilst interactive traffic is, for example traffic resulting in web browsing. With both of these types of traffic, the SGSN is unable to predict when and what traffic is to be forwarded to the mobile station and likewise when and what traffic is going to be received from the mobile station. The radio network controller carries out a process to control the release of the bearer for one or more of the following reasons:

1. The radio network controller has a timer which measures
25 the time since the last packet was transferred to or
received from the mobile station. If a given time lapses
without a packet being transferred, then the radio network
controller releases the connection. Different times may be
used depending on the quality of services profile, in
30 particular whether or not the traffic is interactive or
background traffic. A shorter time may be provided for
background traffic.

2. The radio network controller can take into account the radio state of the mobile station. For example, the RNC may release the RRC connection only in the URA connected mode.

- 5 3. The connection may be kept when another radio bearer is established, for example from the mobile switching centre to the mobile station via the radio network controller. The reason is that the RNC has to keep this mobile RRC-connected for this circuit switched connection, so that it can maintain the radio access bearer for a packet connection without using additional resources.
- 4. The radio network controller can take into account the movement of the mobile station. If the mobile station is moving above a given speed, the bearer connection may be released. A fast moving mobile station uses up a relatively large amount of radio resources for updates (e.g. URA updates). The radio network controller could set a maximum number of URA updates, for example 10 and if no user data traffic has been received within that time, the connection could be released. This is an elegant way to take into account the mobile movement.
- 5. The radio network controller may release the connection if the mobile station enters an area controlled by a different radio network controller. In this regard, reference is made to Figures 3a and 3b.
- As mentioned hereinbefore, a combination of these methods
 30 may be used for determining if a radio network controller
 should release the bearer. For example, if a mobile
 station, which is in the URA update state enters a new radio
 network controller area, the serving radio network

controller can be arranged to release the radio bearer. This may in turn trigger a routing area update from the mobile station. The routing area update is used by mobile to inform the SGSN of its location in RRC-idle mode.

5 If the bearer is released the internal resources of the radio network controller can be conserved. For example, each time a connection is established, the radio network controller requires some buffer resource to be allocated thereto. If a connection is not being used, the buffer resource may be wasted.

In another example, if a mobile station has a circuit switch connection i.e. speech connection, the radio network controller could keep the packet bearer established longer than otherwise. This is because a user is more likely to transfer data during or after a call and the radio network controller would merely have to re-establish that bearer otherwise.

15

modification of the embodiments described 20 hereinbefore, the SGSN could be arranged to give indication in the bearer set up procedure to the radio network controller whether or not the radio network controller is permitted to suggest the release of the 25 Rules associated with this may also be transferred from the SGSN to the radio network controller. Those rules may take any suitable form. The indication in the bearer set up may be implicitly derived by the radio network controller from quality of service parameters provided by the SGSN to the radio network controller. 30

The SGSN could indicate the timer value, or indicate not to release RRC connection if a bearer with particular quality

of service profile is established. The SGSN can thus instruct the RNC as to how it should interpret the rules which it has for determining when to release a connection.

5 Whilst the present invention has referred to mobile stations, it should be appreciated that embodiments of the present invention are applicable to other types of user equipment, for example computer terminals. These computer terminals may be fixed or mobile.

10

15

Embodiments of the present invention have been described in the context of a code division multiple access system. It should be appreciated that embodiments of the present invention can be used with any other suitable spread spectrum access technique, frequency division multiple access techniques, time division multiple access technique or hybrids thereof.

WO 00/76243

PCT/EP00/04231

CLAIMS:

1. A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between an end station and an end element, wherein connections are established between said end station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising means for determining if the connection between said end element and said end station is to be released.

10

2. A network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network element is arranged to release said connection when the determining means determines that the connection is to be released.

- 3. A network element is claimed in claim 2, wherein said network element is arranged to release the connection between the network element and said end station.
- 4. A network element as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein said network element is arranged to send a message to the end element indicating that said connection has been released.
- 25 5. A network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network element is arranged to send a request for the connection to be released to said end station.
- 6. A network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein the end element sends a connection release command to said network element in response to the release request received by said network element, said network element controlling the release of said connection.

WO 00/76243

PCT/EP00/04231

- 7. A network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said network element is arranged to send a release request to said end station in response to the release command received from said end element.
- 8. A network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said network element is arranged to send a message to said end element advising that the connection has been released.

10

5

9. A network element as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

- 10. A network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the type of traffic for which the connection is intended.
- 20 11. A network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the quality of service profile of the traffic for which the connection is intended.
- 12. A network element as claimed in any preceding claim,
 25 wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if
 the connection is to be released based on the state of the
 end station.
- 13. A network element as claimed in any preceding claim,
 30 wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if
 the connection should be released based on the movement of
 the end station.

14. A network element as claimed in claim 13, wherein the amount of updating information received in a given time from the end station is used as a measure of the movement of the end station.

5

- 15. A network element as claimed in claim 14, wherein said updating information comprises URA updates.
- 16. A network element as claimed in any preceding claim,
 10 wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if
 the connection should be released based on the location of
 said end station.
- 17. A network element as claimed in claim 16, wherein said determining means determines that the connection should be released if the end station is associated with a different network element.
- 18. A network element as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said network element is a radio network controller.
 - 19. A network comprising a network element as claimed in any preceding claim, an end station and an end element.
- 25 20. A network as claimed in claim 19, wherein said end station is a mobile station.
 - 21. A network element as claimed in claims 19 or 20, wherein said end element is a SGSN.

30

22. A network as claimed in claims 19, 20 or 21 wherein said network operates in accordance with the UMTS Standard.

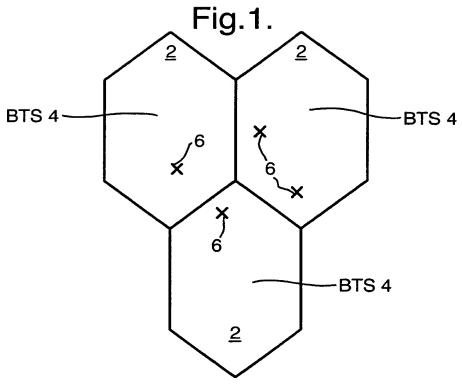


Fig.2B. Fig.2A. 14 3G-SGSN 3G-SGSN <u>12</u> <u>12</u> 10c 10b 10a SRNC SRNC DRNC **DRNC** 4a 4b 4c 4d

Fig.3A.

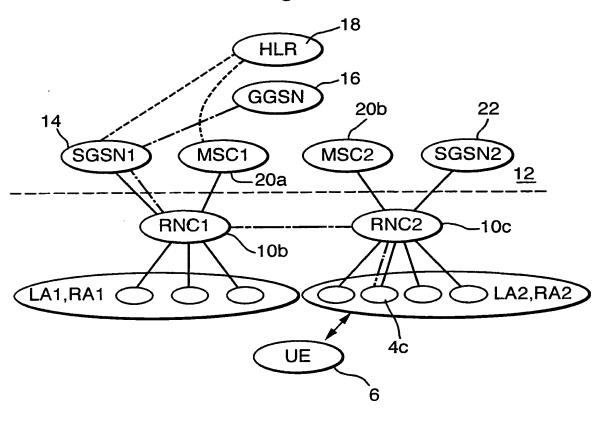
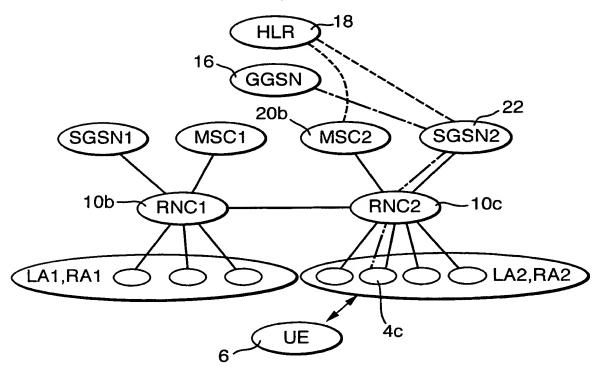


Fig.3B.



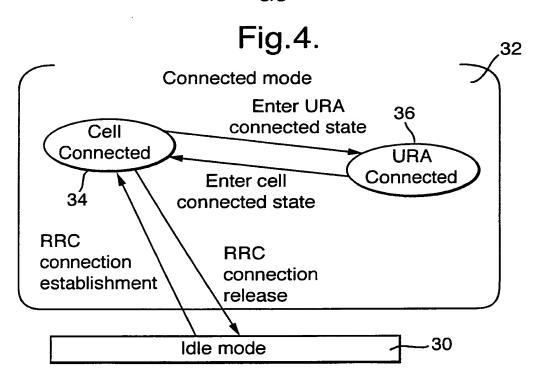
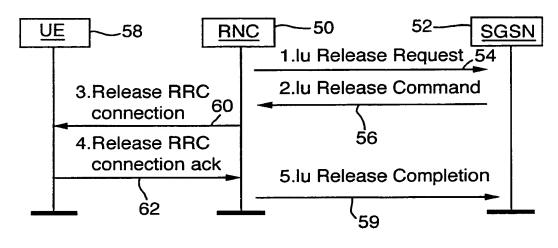
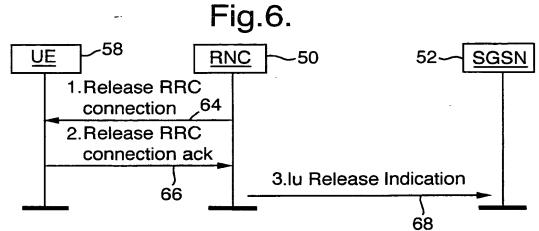


Fig.5.





Inte onal Application No PCT/EP 00/04231

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H0407/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
χ	EP 0 568 212 A (NOKIA MOBILE PHONES LTD) 3 November 1993 (1993-11-03)	1-3,16, 17,19,20			
Υ	column 4, line 34 -column 5, line 28	4			
Y	EP 0 888 022 A (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC) 30 December 1998 (1998-12-30) column 8, line 52 -column 9, line 58	4			
A	WO 95 08898 A (NOKIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS OY; MUSZYNSKI PETER (FI)) 30 March 1995 (1995-03-30) page 15, line 5 - line 35	1-4,16, 17,19,20			
	-/				

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
 Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed 	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "8" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
15 August 2000	22/08/2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk	Authorized officer
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Schut, G

Inter anal Application No PCT/EP 00/04231

	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99 27741 A (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M) 3 June 1999 (1999-06-03) page 14, line 18 - line 23 page 20, line 20 -page 22, line 10 page 24, line 9 - line 21 page 28, line 7 -page 30, line 21; figures 9,14	1-5,13, 16-19,22
A	GB 2 313 259 A (MOTOROLA ISRAEL LTD) 19 November 1997 (1997-11-19) abstract	9
A	EP 0 898 438 A (NOKIA MOBILE PHONES LTD) 24 February 1999 (1999-02-24)	

0

Inter snal Application No PCT/EP 00/04231

information on patent family members

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date	
EP	0568212	Α	03-11-1993	FI	921882	Α	28-10-1993
				DE	69313913	D	23-10-1997
				DE	69313913	T	05-03-1998
				JP	2994527	В	27-12-1999
				JP	6022364	Α	28-01-1994
				US	5345448	A	06-09-1994
EP	0888022	Α	30-12-1998	CA	2235669	A	24-12-1998
				JP	11103487	Α .	13-04-1999
				NO	982919	Α	28-12-1998
				CA	2235688	Α	24-12-1998
				CA	2235876	Α	24-12-1998
				CA	2235870	A	24-12-1998
WO	9508898	A	30-03-1995	AU	684719	В	08-01-1998
				AU	,	Α	10-04-1995
				EP		Α	10-07-1996
				FI		Α	21-05-1996
				JP		T	10-06-1997
				NO		Α	22-05-1996
				US	5850607	Α	15-12-1998
WO	9927741	Α	03-06-1999	AU	1448299	A	15-06-1999
GB	2313259	Α	19-11-1997	NONE			
EP	0898438	Α	24-02-1999	FI	973425	Α	21-02-1999
				AU	7045198	Α	08-03-1999
				FI	990988	Α	30-04-1999
				WO	9909774	Α	25-02-1999
				JP	11113071	Α	23-04-1999